

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical table comprising in height order: a top skin, an upper core, an intermediate skin, a lower core and a bottom skin.
5
2. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate skin comprises two sheets bonded together.
- 10 3. An optical table according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer layer arranged under the top skin and separated from the upper core by a midskin.
4. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the core is made of formed steel.
15
5. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the core is made of composite material.
6. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the core is aluminum
20 honeycomb.
7. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the table has a thickness from top skin to bottom skin in excess of at least one of the group of 310, 460 and 600 mm
- 25 8. An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the top skin, upper core and intermediate skin form a first subassembly and the intermediate skin, lower core and bottom skin form a second subassembly, and each of the first and second subassemblies has a thickness less than at least one of the group of 350 mm, 300 mm and 250 mm.

9. An optical table system comprising an optical table according to claim 1 arranged on a plurality of supporting legs.

10. A method of manufacturing an optical table comprising:

5 making at least two subassemblies, wherein each subassembly is made by bonding a core to upper and lower skins; and
bonding the subassemblies together to form the optical table.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the
10 subassemblies is performed using a cold cure adhesive.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a hot cure adhesive.

15 13. An optical table formed of at least two subassemblies bonded together, each subassembly comprising a core bonded to upper and lower skins, wherein the lower skin of one subassembly is bonded to the upper skin of another subassembly arranged below it.

20

25